'National Policy on Mentally Handicapped' during 3—7 February 1987 at Hyderabad. One of the recommendations of the seminar is that a National Trust for the Welfare of the Mentally Handicapped Persons may be set up as a means to provide special security to mentally handicapped persons. No final decision has been taken by the Government in this regard.

Construction of roads in tribal areas of Orissa

499. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Welfare have given financial assistance to Orissa and other States for the construction and development of Roads in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance released by the Central Government during the Seventh Plan so far; and

(c) the details of the roads in the tribal areas identified for the purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) The Ministry of Welfare has released Rs. 128.80 lakhs of Special Central Assistance in 1987-88 to Orissa for construction of nine roads in Micro-Projects for primitive tribal groups.

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Rural Development has released approximately Rs. 8.98 crores to several States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Roads in Tribal Areas" during the VII Plan, so far.

(c) The details of roads identified for the purpose by the Department of Rural Development is given in Statement-I, enclosed. (*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No 17). The list of roads sanctioned in Orissa by the Ministry of Welfare is given in Statement-II enclosed. (*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 18).

Comprehensive policy to tackle the problems of the Handicapped and disabled

500. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a comprehensive policy to ..tackle the problems of the handicapped and the disabled and specify the role of voluntary organisations;

(b) whether a National Trust is likely to be set up for the purpose; if so, with what aims and objectives; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the need to coordinate efforts for the betterment of the disabled at various levels, and if so, the steps taken to fulfil the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) to (c) A number of suggestions have been received from time to time regarding facilities, concessions and services for the handicapped. These are being examined by a Committee set up under th chairmanship of Shri Bahrul Islam, M.P. and ex-Justice of the Supreme Court. The suggestions also include a proposal for setting up a National Trust for the welfare of the mentally handicapped as a means of providing social security to mentally handicapped persons.

The Government of India through the various National Institutes set up in the various fields of disability provides technical support, training and research for improving education and rehabilitation of the handicapped. These Institutes also interact with voluntary organisations and other Government/Quasi-Government organisations working in the area and provide necessary co-ordination. The Rehabilitation Council has drafted standard curricula for training of persons for providing various services to the handicapped.

501. [*Transferred to the 3rd May, 1988*].